

thousand francs for the right of publication, or two-thirds of the amount which it had given for "Pot-Bouille." " Au Bonheur des Dames " had naturally necessitated considerable preliminary study and investigation in order that a truthful picture might be presented of the trade of a great city, as exemplified by one of those huge drapery establishments, — the Louvre, the Bon Marché, and the Printemps. Some such leviathan, devouring all the small fry around it and teeming with restless life, was depicted in Zola's pages, which introduced the reader to a world of counter-jumpers beneath whose superficial gloss lay much rank brutishness. And the subject also embraced the hard, the often cruel lot of the girls employed in such places, the ambition and commercial daring of the master, and the ways of all the customers, not forgetting the kleptomaniacs. But though the book was full of interest of a particular kind and deserved the attention of all thinking people, it was perhaps scarcely one to fascinate the great majority of readers. Zola finished it at the end of January, 1883, and in March it was published by M. Charpentier.¹ Most of the newspapers dealt with it sharply; and Sche'rer, the Protestant critic of "Le Temps," still smarting from

the attacks which Zola had made upon the
French Protestants, their alleged self-righteousness and
narrow big-

le 'A.Ti Bonheur des Dames," Paris, Charpentier, 1883,
18mo, 525 pages.
Some copies on Japanese and some on Dutch paper. Fifty-
ninth thousand
reached in 1893; seventy-fifth thousand in 1903. This would
seem to have
"been the first of Zola's works of which a translation
appeared in England.
This translation was made by Mr. Frank Turner,
subsequently secretary to
General Boulanger; it was first issued in a weekly periodical, -
which the present
writer believes to have been "The London Keader," and was
afterwards
published in book form by Tinsley Brothers. Yizetelly & Co.
acquired the
copyright and ultimately sold it to E. A. Vizetelly, who
transferred it to
Hutchinson & Co.